GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4311
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
MEETING OF INDUS WATER COMMISSION
A. VENKATESH NAIK;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the permanent Indus Water Commission was held at Islamabad in the beginning of February this year;

(b) if so, whether the Indian delegation visited the Baglihar hydro thermal power station;

(c) if so, the objectives of the visit;

(d) the major differences between India and Pakistan on the issue; and

(e) by when the Pak-delegation visit is likely to take place?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir. The 88th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) was held at Islamabad during 4th−6th February, 2003.

(b) No, Sir. The tour of inspection of Baglihar Hydroelectric Plant in J&K as discussed in the aforesaid meeting has not been undertaken by the PIC, so far.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) According to Pakistan, the design of the Baglihar Hydroelectric Plant does not conform to the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, whereas the Indian view is that the Plant fully conforms to the provisions as specified in the Treaty. During the above mentioned meeting, Pakistan Commissioner insisted to discuss the questions framed by Pakistan on the Baglihar Plant under the provision of the Indus Waters Treaty dealing with settlement of differences and disputes while the Indian Commissioner suggested to discuss Pakistan's objections on the design of the plant so as to resolve them amicably. The meeting concluded with both sides maintaining their points of view.

(e) The Pakistan delegation is to visit India for the next meeting of PIC before 1st June, 2003.